



S/V Jule III



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LTR 17-08
21 May 2017

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FCC Mail Room

Reference: (1) FCC WT Docket No. 17-122

To whom it may concern:

We are providing this letter in response to FCC's request for comments to referenced docket concerning Icom 802 Class E MF/HF marine transceiver. As a member of the maritime offshore recreational cruising community, we believe that granting Icom's request for waiver "is in the public interest because it will enable cruising vessels to obtain communication, safety and weather information from an HF radio during a voyage". (ref 1)

We are USCG licensed (100 ton Masters) offshore cruisers on a small sailing vessel who rely on the HF spectrum, both marine and amateur radio bands, for position and status reporting, safety messaging, weather information and digital forecasts, and routine communications with family and cruising colleagues. We previously used a Icom 710 RT until it was no longer serviceable. We then upgraded to a Icom 802. We would not go out to sea without a working marine/amateur MF/HF transceiver. Current FCC restrictions concerning the Icom 802 radio would prohibit us from buying a 'legal' new and cost affordable marine radio for recreational or small business use.

We petition the FCC WTB grant the waiver as identified in (1) for the reasons stated above. We will be glad to provide more detailed rationale if need.

Sincerely,

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